Observation of Teaching Using a Clinical Supervision Model

Assignment 6

GEDU 720

By

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1. **The Planning Conference**
   1. What Kind of lesson will be observed? The class has been studying states of matter and the lesson that will be observed is a 6th grade Science condensation lab.
   2. What specific strategies, tactics, and behaviors will the teacher be attempting to use? Specific strategies that will be used are an observing activity along with a summative evaluation that will be turned in at the end of the period. The teacher noted that since it is still early in the school year she would be emphasizing following lab rules and following directions.
   3. What sorts of behaviors does the teacher expect from the students? It is still early in the school year; therefore, the teacher stated the students are still learning the rules of how to proceed with lab work. She warned me that two students in particular are always confused and will look like they are lost when asked to go back to their lab stations.
   4. What explicit concerns does the teacher want to address by means of observational data? The teacher stressed that since it is early in the school year, she must be very detailed with instructions, which may seem to take an exceptionally long time. It is very important to take the extra time now and eventually the students know exactly what is expected of them.
   5. What sort of observational data will be most useful? The observational data that will be most useful for the clinical observation is anecdotal records.
   6. How will you gather your observation data? The data collection procedure will be to prepare anecdotal records and descriptive records. I plan to observe the surroundings and document the activities during the period.
2. **Classroom Observation**
   1. The classroom observation was for a 6th grade Science class with a lesson topic of Changing States of Matter and a condensation lab.
   2. The date of the observation was September 30, 2009.
   3. The learning objective was to be able to conduct an experiment that will produce the different states of matter. Using cold and warm water condensation will be evident.
   4. The number of students present was 24.
   5. Brief summary of instruction. The class was very organized and attentive. The teacher grasped the attention of the students through the SMART Board when introducing the topic. After the mini lesson the students were instructed how to conduct a lab where students witnessed the changing states of matter.
3. **Analysis and Strategy**
   1. What is your interpretation of the data you collected as per pre conference discussion? The teacher was very concerned that the observation was first period and students are very new to the lab concept. In addition, she was concerned that a few students would not be on task. The class observation was superb. She conducts an orderly class; they all knew exactly what to do when they came into the classroom. She gave very clear and explicit instructions and modeled sample work for the students to observe. The lab that she was worried about was very successful and she accomplished what she stated to me during the preconference.
   2. What is the “discussion plan” for the Post Conference? I plan to start off with a very well deserved positive comment. A comment will be made that a few students became off-task and did not always follow directions but she handled the situation professionally. The few students that would get off task she immediately but very discreetly made a comment and they returned on task. The class was never interrupted when she made a comment. I would end the post conference on a positive note stating that she is a model teacher that is very dedicated and extremely concerned about her students and their achievement. She is never afraid to take risks, as she knows this will benefit the students. I told her that I wished in school I would have had the pleasure of having a science teacher with her excitement and love for the field of education and her subject—her students are very lucky.
4. **The Supervisory (Feedback) Post Conference**
   1. Please reflect on the Post Conference experience: The experience was very relaxing and comfortable experience. Even though she has taught for 15 years, she was very open to my observing and welcomed my comments. Using anecdotal records as the class progressed made it very easy to create an observation report based on the main events in the classroom.
5. **Post Conference Analysis**
   1. Please reflect on the success of the observation and post conference. Did you help the teacher? I felt the observation was a success. I have observed other technology classes in the past but I chose a class that was not similar to my educational background. The entire experience was favorable. The principal and teacher were both very willing to allow me to observe; however, the teacher was a little nervous and she stated that up front. As I mentioned earlier she is a model teacher and I hope to use her for future collaboration science days. I don’t know that I was a huge help to her other than giving her confidence and acknowledgement that she did a great job. We are always our worst critics.

**General Reflection**

Conducting the clinical observation stages was a valuable experience. I felt the pre-conference was a necessity. It put the teacher at ease and it allowed me to know her objective ahead of time and gave me opportunity to learn about her strategies, tactics and behaviors. In my years of teaching, I never once had a pre conference session. Because of the pre conference the teacher was very comfortable with me when conducting the post conference. If I were to complete this assignment again, I would choose a less seasoned educator. It would be interesting to see the difference in the two classes.

I would be interested to observe a lesson study as they practice in Japan. Conducting an observation and analysis with two teachers teaching the same class at two separate times and observing how the behaviors of the students differ would be very informative. Through our RCI department, they have created a Teacher’s Academy that practices the same theory. It is my goal to accompany one of the administrators and participate in this type of observation.